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DROITWICH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT, 1954



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R. F. FRY, M.I.San.E., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.P.C., M.S.I.A.

Chairman of the Council :
The Ven. Archdeacon T. Bowstead Wilson, M.A., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :
W. E. RICHARDSON, Esq., J.P.

Members of the Housing and General Purposes Committee

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T. S. MAPSON, S. E. POWICK AND J. WILLIAMSON.

*Co-opted members for advice on housing and nominated by the Women's
Institute :* MRS. D. L. PARKER AND MRS. B. L. BIRCH.

Health Officers of the Council.

L. SPENCER STEPHENS, M.B., CH.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H., *Medical Officer of
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RURAL DISTRICT OF DROITWICH.

Annual Report for the Year 1954.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
RURAL DISTRICT OFFICES,
DROITWICH.
December, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Statistical Report on the health conditions of the Rural District during the year 1954. As I did not commence duty with your Council until 1st February, 1955, I am in no position to report accurately on the work of the year. Your Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector has, however, provided me with a great deal of factual information which I have made the subject of brief comment, and I would like to bring to your notice certain items of interest.

Following normal practice the Report is divided into the following sections :—

- A.—Statistics and social conditions of the area.
- B.—General provision of health services for the area.
- C.—Sanitary circumstances of the area.
- D.—Housing.
- E.—Inspection and supervision of food.
- F.—Prevalence of and control over infectious disease.

The vital Statistics are set out on pages 3 and 4, and it is interesting to note that the Standardised Death Rate is slightly lower than that for England and Wales, and the Infant Mortality Rate lower than for several years. The main causes of death were predominately Cardiac or Vascular lesions, Cancer and Bronchitis, which affect the elderly, and there were no deaths from Infectious Disease. In fact apart from Whooping Cough there were very few notifications of Infectious Disease (pp. 21 and 22). A small outbreak of Dysentery, occurred in Ombersley towards the end of the year, but it was the off-year for Measles and there were only 12 cases. There were 15 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but the number of cases on the register remained roughly the same. The general health of the population may, therefore, be considered to have been very satisfactory.

Progress was made with two new Sewage Schemes during the year (P. 9), and a considerable amount of new house building was completed (P. 14). A start was made on the re-survey of unfit houses and other poor property for the purposes of Slum Clearance, and more Improvement Grants were dealt with than in the previous year. With the decontrol of the Meat Industry by the Ministry of Food, one Private Slaughterhouse was opened, and meat inspection re-commenced by your Sanitary Inspectors (P. 19). The routine Sanitary Work (Refuse Collection, Rodent Control and inspection of food premises etc.) continued as in previous years.

My thanks are due to Mr. Fry for most valuable assistance in preparing this Report, and to you Mr. Chairman and all the Members of the Council for the kind consideration shown to me since my arrival.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. SPENCER STEPHENS.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	....	....	....	....	....	51,453
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to						
Rate Books	....	....	....	....	....	3,983
Rateable Value (December, 31st, 1954)	....	....	....	....	....	£80,245
Sum presented by one penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£319
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1954)						13,190
<i>Live Births.</i>					<i>Males</i> <i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	97 91	188
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	3 8	11
Crude birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population						15.1
Standardised Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....		16.9
Birth rate for England and Wales				....		15.2
<i>Still Births.</i>					<i>Males</i> <i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	2 1	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	— —	—
Still birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population						0.23
Still birth-rate per 1,000 England and Wales						0.36
<i>Deaths.</i>					<i>Males</i> <i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
From all causes	....	....	....	....	70 72	142
Crude death-rate per 1,000 estimated population						10.76
Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated population	....	....	....	....		9.9
Death rate for England and Wales				....		11.3
					<i>Males</i> <i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Deaths of Infants under One year of age.</i>						
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	3 1	4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	— —	—
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						20.1
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales						25.5
<i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.</i>					<i>Males.</i> <i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	3 1	4
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	— —	—
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births						20.1
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales						17.7

CAUSES OF DEATH.

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	....	....	....	....	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	....	....	....	....	....	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	....	....	....	....	....	—	5	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	6	4	—
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	—	1	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	....	....	13	19	—
Coronary Disease, Angina	....	....	....	....	....	16	4	—
Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	—	3	—
Other heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	6	16	—
Other circulatory disease	....	....	....	....	....	2	3	—
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	2	1	—
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	6	3	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis	....	....	....	....	....	—	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	....	....	....	1	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	....	....	1	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	....	....	....	....	5	7	—
Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	....	....	3	1	—
All other accidents	....	....	....	....	....	4	2	—
Suicide	....	....	....	....	....	1	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
						—	—	—
						70	72	—
						—	—	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) *Ambulance Service.*

This service is provided by the County Council. Ambulance stations which serve the Droitwich Rural District are situated at Worcester, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch. The list below shows the parishes covered by each ambulance station for non-emergency cases. In all cases of emergency the ambulance should be summoned in the usual way—that is, by asking the Telephone operator for “Ambulance” or by dialling “999.”

Bromsgrove Ambulance Station

Upton Warren Northern part of Parish of Dodderhill.

Kidderminster Ambulance Station

Hartlebury.

Redditch Ambulance Station

Stock and Bradley.

Worcester Ambulance Station.

Elmley Lovett	Hanbury	Salwarpe
Elmbridge	Himbleton	Tibberton
Hampton Lovett	Hindlip	Upton Warren
Doverdale	Huddington	Warndon
North Claines	Martin Hussingtree	Westwood
Crowle	Oddingley	
Hadzor	Ombersley	

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the isolation hospitals. The hospital car service, manned in most cases by volunteers is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

(b) *Hospitals.*

The district is served by general hospitals situated in Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster and Birmingham.

The isolation hospital which serves the area is situated at Newtown, Worcester.

Maternity hospitals which serve the district are situated at Stourport, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

(c) *Home Nursing and Health Visiting.*

This service is provided by the County Council, and in most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse-Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. The following nurses are working the Rural District :—

Nurse Wilson, Nurse's House, Fernhill Heath. Telephone No. : Fernhill Heath 304.

Nurse Powell, Shaw Lane, Stoke Works. *Telephone No.* : Bromsgrove 2659.

Nurse Adler, Rose Cottage, Cutnall Green. *Telephone No.* : Cutnall Green 233.

Nurse Fountain, 7 Council House, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle. *Telephone No.* : Upton Snodsbury 259.

Nurse Powell, 14 Appletree Walk, Ombersley. *Telephone No.* : Ombersley 341.

Nurse Dudley, 27 Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury. *Telephone No.* : Hartlebury 200.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.

The district is served by the following Clinics :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturday at 10.0 a.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open on 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month at 2.0 p.m.

Recreation Road, Bromsgrove. Open every Monday at 10.0 a.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open every Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Open every Monday at 2.0 p.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Shirehall, Worcester. Open 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10.0 a.m.

Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich. Open every Tuesday at 2.0 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Ombersley. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Hartlebury. Open on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. Open on 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 2.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Hanbury. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Crowle. Open on 4th Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Cutnall Green. Open on 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

The Memorial Hall, Fernhill Heath. Open on 2nd Friday in the month at 2.0 p.m.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria is carried out free of charge at any of the County Council's Clinics or by the patients own doctor.

During 1954 the following inoculations were done :—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	....	....	....	....	145
Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year	....	....	....	....	74

VACCINATION.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	....	....	....	....	25
Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year					4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, AND AMENDMENT ACT, 1951.

These sections place on district medical officers of health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of people who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the medical officer of health by the welfare officers of the County Council or by private doctors.

No cases were dealt with by Statutory Action during the year, but a number of cases were dealt with informally.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) PIPED SUPPLIES.

The Rural District is divided so that 30,278 acres fall within the Statutory area of the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company and 20,165 acres are served directly by the Droitwich Rural District Council.

MAINS EXTENSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

The following extensions to the mains were laid during 1954 :—

Hanbury. The East Worcestershire Waterworks Company laid a 4inch supply main from the Feckenham Supply at Middle Beanhall Farm into Hanbury village—a distance of some 2-2½ miles. The council houses and bungalows on the Courts Close Estate were connected and further extensions laid along the Droitwich, and Bromsgrove roads and towards the Church where a number of private owners have taken a supply.

Ombersley. Some 2,427 yards of extensions were laid throughout the village during the year. The new council houses had already been provided with a supply the previous year, and the yield from the 12inch diameter borehole proved to be so plentiful that it was decided that provision could be made for the rest of the village.

Hartlebury. Negotiations were completed with Stourport Urban District Council for a bulk supply to Hartlebury Village and work was begun but not completed during the year. A 6inch supply main was laid from the Mount on the Stourport Road for a distance of some 1,200 yards to the vicinity of Charlton House, and extensions are now in progress throughout the village.

Tibberton. Owing to the pollution of a number of shallow wells supplying properties in the village, it was decided to lay some 839 yards of service main from the borehole sunk for the Council's housing site. Provision of an adequate supply to all parts of the village is not complete, however.

The Hartlebury, Ombersley and Tibberton schemes were carried out by Direct Labour.

Fernhill Heath and Hindlip. The Council's Consulting Engineer, Sir Arnold Waters, was asked to submit a report on the question of future supplies to this area with particular reference to Hindlip Hall and the nearby farms. Following consideration of his report, negotiations were opened with Worcester Corporation for a revised agreement so that their supply could be increased from 80,000 to 120,000 gallons per day. It is hoped that this additional supply will be capable of providing for any future housing development in Fernhill Heath and an adequate supply to the County Police Headquarters at Hindlip Hall. Improved pumping equipment would have to be installed at the existing Droitwich Road Station, and a storage reservoir either there or at Hindlip Hall. A new booster station would also be provided to improve the pressure in the Ombersley and Northwick Road area. Discussions were also taking place with the County Council concerning their part in the scheme but a final decision had not been reached at the end of the year.

(b) PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

A large part of the Rural District still derives its water supply from shallow wells. As can be seen from the information submitted below, a large number of these wells are polluted and it is most important that the Council continues to pursue its policy of extending Mains Supplies wherever possible throughout the District.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

The sources of public supply were examined during the year and all samples reported as satisfactory. The following samples were taken from Private Supplies.

<i>Address.</i>	<i>Source of Supply.</i>	<i>Result</i>
Newland Hurst Cottage, Oddingley	.... Well	Unfit
Hoo Orchard, Crowle	.... Well	Fit
Canal Cottage, Tibberton	.... Well	Unfit
Cobwebb Cottage, Ladywood	.... Well	Unfit
Bethany, Comhampton, Ombersley	.... Well	Unfit
St. Gilberts, Hartlebury	.... Well	Fit
Cottage, Oldfield Lane, Ombersley	.... Well	Unfit
Cottage, Hadley Heath, Ombersley	.... Well	Fit

<i>Address.</i>	<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Result</i>
Gateley Farm, Cutnall Green	Well	Unfit
Keybridge Farm, Hampton Lovett	Well	Unfit
Hill Grove Cottages, Hartlebury	Well	Unfit
Croft Orchard, Tibberton	Well	Unfit
Spinningdale, St. Richard's Close	(Tap Water)	
De Wyche Park, Wychbold	(Main)	Fit
Red Roofs Bungalow, Cutnall Green	Well	Unfit
Broadfield Cottage, Tibberton	Well	Unfit
Cottage, The Cross, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
House, Inn Lane, Hartlebury	New Well	Fit
White House, Oddingley	Well	Unfit
House, Cow Lane, Sytchampton	New Well	Fit
Cottage, The Commons, Broughton Green	New Well	Unfit
Croft Orchard, Tibberton	Tap	Unfit
Croft Orchard, Tibberton	(Direct from Pump)	Unfit
Newland Common Farm, Nr. Droitwich	Well	Fit
Bungalow, Earls Common, Himbleton	Well	Unfit
Bartlams Farm, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
Phepson Farm, Himbleton	Well	Unfit
Park Farm, Ombersley	Well	Unfit
House, Inn Lane, Hartlebury	Bucket	Unfit
Bungalow, Cutnall Green	Well	Unfit
Oakley Cottages, Salwarpe	Well	Unfit
Council Houses, Old Turnpike Road, Crowle	Borehole	Fit
Council House, Hillside, Tibberton	Borehole	Fit
The Grove, Hartlebury	Well	Unfit
Church House, Hartlebury	Well	Unfit
Holloway Cottage, Hanbury	Borehole	Fit
Hanbury Hall Cottage, Hanbury	Well	Unfit
Brant House Bungalow, Boreley, Ombersley	Well	Fit

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

It was possible to commence work on two major sewerage and sewage disposal schemes during the year, which had both been the subject of Public Enquiries by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 30th January, 1952. Although approval was given to the Ombersley scheme in April, 1952, work was not commenced until early 1954, whereas owing to delays and alterations to the Crowle Scheme it was not begun until September, 1954.

Ombersley. Special difficulties were encountered in preparing a scheme for the whole district owing to a ridge of high land running through the village and dividing it into northern and southern drainage areas. Many of the old drains in the southern half of the village were laid in 1909 and in fact discharged sewage without treatment through a culvert to a pond in the grounds of Ombersley Court. Originally it was intended that the Disposal Works should be situated on this side of the village, but finally a more favourable site was found in the northern drainage area beyond Hay Lane. This meant that the

hamlets of Uphampton and Oldfield could more readily be included. Unfortunately, however, they were excluded from the scheme as a result of the Public Enquiry.

The population of the village was at that time estimated to be some 2,044 persons occupying 601 houses, of which 444 possessed privy middens or pail closets. The remainder of the houses drained to cesspools or into the existing surface water sewers. The Racks Lane area was particularly insanitary due to the bad arrangement of the houses in relation to each other. The problem came to a head with the provision of a supply of piped water to the new Council houses in Appletree Walk, and when it was decided to extend this supply throughout the village. Some 1,675 yards of sewer were laid during the year, despite the fact that existing sewers were utilised wherever possible down the main A.449 road. Natural falls existed from the Crown and Sandys Hotel in the south, the Longheadlands and Racks Lane area in the north and the school in the east towards the cross-roads. An Ejector Station was erected a short distance along the Holt Road and the sewage pumped along a new rising main over the ridge to the works.

The Sewage Disposal Works is of the most modern design. After preliminary screening the sewage passes through twin detritus chambers and thence over a wier either to the hopper shaped sedimentation tank or to a similar storm water tank according to the rate of flow. Sludge may be drawn off from the bottom of the tanks to four sludge beds by gravity, and the sludge liquor recirculated from the pump house. There is one large percolating filter with quadruple arms, and space for a second one if necessary. After passing through a humus tank the effluent is transmitted by a deep effluent drain across a field to the brook. It was indeed fortunate that the only Slaughterhouse to be licenced in the Rural District should be provided with satisfactory drainage facilities shortly after the date for decontrol of meat by the Ministry of Food.

Crowle. The parishes of Crowle and Crowle Green with a population of some 435 persons, form a fairly compact community. The drainage conditions in the village are poor and the presence of blue lias clay does not lend itself to the provision of efficient septic tanks or cesspools. The majority of the dwelling houses have pail closets, but much of the waste water discharges into open ditches or existing surface water drains. With the provision of a borehole supply of piped water to the village, further drainage problems were created and had to be solved.

Work on the Disposal Works began in September, 1954 and by the end of the year approximately 500 yards of main 9inch and 12inch sewer were laid along the Froxmere Court Road.

Fernhill Heath. This Sewage Disposal Works, dealing with sewage from the greater part of the North Claines Parish was operated successfully during the year. A further 8 Council houses were completed at Creswell Close and this Estate has added materially to the volume of

sewage to be treated. The cesspool emptier is dealing with night-soil collection from the remainder of the Parish, but it is regrettable that more of these properties have not been connected to the sewer.

Hartlebury. The arrangement with the Stourport Urban District Council for the treatment of sewage at the Kidderminster Joint Works has continued to operate satisfactorily. More private properties were connected to the sewer during the year and the completion of the three blocks of flats in Woodbury Close added materially to the volume of sewage dealt with by the pumping station on Quarry Bank.

Wychbold. A temporary treatment plant had to be installed on land along Crown Lane to deal with the sewage from the completed flats in De Wyche Road. It is only hoped that the comprehensive scheme prepared for the Wychbold and Dodderhill areas will soon be given Ministry approval.

3. REFUSE COLLECTING AND DISPOSAL.

This service covers the whole district, a weekly collection being given in the village areas and three-weekly collection in other parts. Complaints about the service are now very few indeed, in fact less than half-a-dozen have been received over the past twelve months, and experience shows that this is a good indication that an efficient service is being given. The Council can be justifiably proud of the refuse collection service, which affects every ratepayer in the district and which has been maintained very closely to schedule in spite of adverse weather conditions during the year.

Number of houses for refuse collection	....	....	....	....3964
Number of houses for weekly collection	....	....	....	....2222
Number of houses for three-weekly collection	....	....	....	....1742

The number of loads collected during the year was 1,493 each of approximately 4 tons, so that the total weight of refuse collected amounted to 5,972 tons.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at a central tip. Screened clinker, obtained from an electricity generating station, is used as a cover to the refuse and has proved to be very suitable for the purpose. since cost of the clinker is very low (about 1½d. per ton, plus the cost of transport in the Council's own vehicle) refuse is disposed of in a hygienic manner for a minimum cost. The tip is kept under constant observation for rat and other infestation, the normal practice being to treat the tip for rats at quarterly intervals.

COSTS.	1954-55.	1953-4.
	£	£
Wages and National Insurance	4102	3878
Travelling	16	16
Clothing and Toilet requisites	37	45
Implements and Tools	21	6
Vehicles : EUY 173	52	9
JUY 994	458	477
JUY 995	460	463
KWP 390	602	526
General Purpose Vehicle (Proportion)	5	6
Depot Expenses	71	25
Maintenance of tips	60	60
Insurance	—	2
Transporting Employees :		
Expenses 117		
Income 27		
	90	43
Trade Refuse Charges	14	10
Salvage—Income 201		
Expenses 199		
	2	11
	5974	5556
	16	21
Net cost of Service	5958	5535

4. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employs a full-time Rodent Operative who is responsible for the routine inspection of all premises within the district and deals with infestations in non-agricultural premises. Periodic inspections are also carried out of the Council's own property, sewage disposal works and refuse tips, treatment being effected when and where necessary. The following table shows the work carried out during the year :—

INFESTATION OF PREMISES.

	Type of Property.				Agricultural.
	Non- Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (includ. Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3) (4)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	4268	209	4489	353
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of (a) Notification and (b) Survey under the Act and (c) otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose). during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1955	(a) Nil	29	3	32	3
	(b) 12	1292	7	1311	288
	(c) Nil	23	18	41	4
3. Total inspections (including re-inspections) ...	177	2289	43	2509	315
4. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by :— (a) Rats (b) Mice ...	(a) Major 4.	25	Nil	29	11
	Minor 1	124	3	128	Nil
	(b) Major Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor Nil	40	Nil	40	Nil
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the Local Authority	5	189	3	197	4
6. Total treatments carried out—including retreatments	33	189	3	225	4
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 :					
(a) Treatment ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural Work ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	Nil	11	Nil	11	Nil

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

New Housing

The housing policy of the Council during the year reflected the Government's policy both as regards size of house and increased number under construction. Greater prominence was given to the erection of two-bedroomed houses and flats, the latter having proved to be both economical and satisfactory to the tenants. A total of 103 houses or flats were completed during the year.

New Houses built during 1954.

<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Type.</i>	<i>No. of Houses.</i>
Bradley Green	Parlour	8
No. 1, Block A, Gregory Flats,	2-Bedroomed	4
Waresley Court Road, Hartlebury.		
Cresswell Close, Fernhill Heath	Non-Parlour 3-Bedroomed	8
Block 1 Flats, Woodbury Close, Hartlebury.	2-Bedroomed	12
Block 2 Flats, Woodbury Close, Hartlebury.	2-Bedroomed	9
Block 3, Flats, Woodbury Close, Hartlebury.	2-Bedroomed	12
Block 1, Cornish Unit Flats, De Wyche Road, Wychbold	2-Bedroomed	12
Block 2, Cornish Unit Flats, De Wyche Road, Wychbold	2-Bedroomed	6
Block 3, Cornish Unit Flats, De Wyche Road, Wychbold	2-Bedroomed	12
Hay Lane, Ombersley	3-Bedroomed	12
Terrace Block,	1-2 Bedroomed	
Tibberton	3-3-Bedroomed	4
Total		103

HOUSING ACT, 1936—HOUSING INSPECTION.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	131
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	177
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil.
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	94

II.—*Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	65
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III —*Action under Statutory powers during the year.*

1.	PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(i)	By owners	Nil.
	(ii)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil.
2.	PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(i)	By Owners	9
	(ii)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil.
3.	PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :		
	(a)	Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.

4.	PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—									
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made									3
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit									1

IV. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.*

1.	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year							No de-
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein							tailed
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein							figures available
2.	(a)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year....							2
	(b)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year							1
	(c)	Number of persons concerned in such cases							4
	(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved							Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1949—Improvement Grants.

There was an increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants to 11 compared with 6 in 1953. This nearly doubled the figures for the previous year, the total work grant-aided amounting to £6,441, of which £2,692 was paid in grants. This may be attributed to the amended qualifications for grant which was introduced as a result of the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954. They resulted in :—

1. A reduction in the period for which the dwellings concerned are likely to provide satisfactory housing accommodation from 30 to 15 years.
2. An increase in the maximum amount eligible for grant from £600 to £800. (Actual grant payable on any one house not to exceed one half, and all repairs to be specifically excluded).

No change was made in the method whereby the Local Authority fixes the maximum rent for the property, except that regard shall be paid to the age of the building and the character and condition of the dwelling after the carrying out of the improvements. The standard of accommodation to be provided remains the same. It is hoped that a further increase in the number of applications will occur in the future, as this is one method of encouraging owners to carry out work on their property and thus provide a higher standard of living accommodation in the district.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

This Act which became operative on 30th July, 1954, was a very important piece of legislation introduced to make further provision for the demolition, clearance and re-development of areas of unfit housing accommodation and for promoting the re-conditioning and maintenance of houses. Local Authorities were instructed to submit (within 1 year) proposals for dealing with all the houses within their district which appeared to be unfit for human habitation. It was obvious that most Rural Authorities would be faced with a complete re-survey of all the poorer property within their districts. In Worcestershire a Rural Housing Survey had been carried out in 1947, but most of this information was out of date. Along with many other Local Authorities, Droitwich Rural District advertised for an additional Sanitary Inspector to carry out this work, but owing to the acute shortage of qualified men failed to obtain anyone. The Council then decided to ask the three qualified members of the Health Department Staff to carry out this work as overtime for suitable remuneration. A start was made towards the end of the year.

Another provision of the 1954 Act is the Repairs Increase by which landlords are entitled to increase the Rent of their property by 8 per cent if in good repair, even though subject to the provisions of the Rent Restriction Acts. Where the tenant considers this to be unjust treatment, he has the right to ask the Local Authority for a Certificate of Disrepair, and the right of Appeal on the grounds that insufficient repair work has been carried out during the previous twelve months. Only one application for a Disrepair Certificate had been received by the end of the year and it soon became fairly obvious that landlords were not taking advantage of the somewhat complicated provisions of the Act. Unfortunately, this also means that very little repair work is being done to private properties where there is a definite need for it. If Statutory Notices are served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, the Council are faced with the possibility of having to carry out the work in default and recover the cost as a civil debt. A considerable number of houses suitable for repair work have already been brought to light by the new Survey, and serious consideration must be given to this problem over the next 5 years.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

The following table shows the work carried out in factories in the Rural District during the year.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. Inspection for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspection (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	12	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	40	40	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	47	77	—	—
Total ...	6	88	129	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c. line (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number in cases in which prosecution instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred H.M. Inspect (5)	H.M. Inspect. (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including expenses relating to Out-work)	12	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	72	3	3	—	3	—

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspection of Food premises was carried out during the year and the attention of traders and shop-keepers drawn to the requirements of the new Byelaws introduced by the Council in 1953.

Meat Inspection.

Early in the year the Government announced its intention to return the control of the Meat Industry to private enterprise. With this decontrol the Ministry of Food discontinued their arrangements for large-scale inspection of meat in the bigger Municipal Abattoirs and Local Authorities again became responsible for this work. Fortunately all three Sanitary Inspectors employed by Droitwich Rural District Council possessed the necessary Certificate of Meat and Foods.

Much of the meat sold within the Rural District is still slaughtered in Worcester, Kidderminster, or Birmingham. Only one application to be licenced as a Private Slaughterhouse was received and these premises in Ombersley were considered to be satisfactory after a few minor alterations. An enquiry from the owner of premises in Elmbridge, was followed by inspection, as a result of which he was informed that his premises would not be suitable for licencing.

The number of animals slaughtered and inspected at Ombersley Slaughterhouse is shown below.

Animals Slaughtered and Inspected (7th August—31st December, 1954)

Cattle	....	....	....	....	51
Calves	....	....	....	....	2
Sheep	....	....	....	....	288
Pigs	....	....	....	....	85
					<hr/>
Total					426
					<hr/>

Condemnation of Unfit Food.

The following food, mainly meat, was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

- 4 Sheeps Livers (complete)
- 2 Beasts Livers (complete).
- 3 Beasts (Mesentery).
- 1 Beasts Lung.
- 10½lbs. Lamb Meat.
- 17½lbs. Beasts Liver.
- 10lbs. Pork Shoulder.
- 14lbs. Pineapple (Tinned).
- 19lbs. Oats (Loose).

Milk.

The Rural District Council are not responsible for the supervision of milk production which is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. They are responsible for the supervision of milk distribution however, and fourteen retailers were supplying milk in the area during 1954. Some of these distributors operate from premises outside the district in which case Supplementary licences are issued, instead of Principal Licences. The licences covered the following designations :—

Number of Retailers	....	....	14
Designation "Pasteurised"	....		14
" Sterilised "	....		3
"T.T. Pasteurised"			2

There are four Pasteurising plants in the district but " Pasteurisers licences are issued by the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority.

Ice-Cream.

Thirty-five premises are registered for the sale or manufacture of Ice-cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. There are no large-scale producers in the district, but two premises use the cold-mix process. The remaining premises sell the pre-packed product only.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the occurrence of infectious disease in parishes :—

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Dysentery
Cutnall Green	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Dodderhill	1	—	6	—	—	—	1	—
Elmbridge	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Elmley Lovett	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	—
Hampton Lovett	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Hanbury ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Hartlebury	1	5	2	1	1	—	—	—
Himbleton	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hindlip	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
North Claines	2	3	6	—	—	1	—	9
Omersley	—	1	12	—	—	—	—	—
Tibberton	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Warndon ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	12	54	5	1	1	1	9

SECTION F.

THE INCIDENCE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING 1954 IS SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE.

	Under One Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total cases notified	Cases admitted	Total deaths
1. Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	5	—	—
2. Measles	1	1	1	1	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—
3. Whooping Cough	3	5	9	2	27	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	54	—	—
4. Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
5. Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	5	—	—
6. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
7. Dysentery	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	—
8. Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	6	6	8	11	4	39	4	1	5	—	1	3	88	—	—

Tuberculosis, 1954.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis during the year are shown below :—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>NEW CASES</i>				<i>DEATHS</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—15	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>TOTALS</i> ...	7	8	—	3	—	—	—	—

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register during the year are as follows :—

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Cases on the Register at 1st January, 1954 ...	40	29	8	5
Additions to the Register during the year ...	7	8	—	3
Deductions from the Register during the year ...	6	9	1	2
Cases on the Register at 31st December, 1954 ...	41	28	7	6

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held at the Shirehall, Worcester, quarterly.

This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculosis patients and their families.

